(d) if so, the total amount recovered through this cess upto March, 1999 together with the year-wise details of item-wise heads under which this amount has been spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the provisions of Section 15 of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974, cess on crude oil is presently levied and collected at the rate of Rs. 900 per tonne.

(b) Cess was imposed on crude oil with effect from the 23rd July, 1974 for the purpose of developmewnt of oil industry ("oil industry" includes Fertilizers & Petrochemicals) as per the provisions contained in the said Act.

(c) and (d) The total cumulative net collection of cess up to March, 1999 is estimated to be about Rs. 33,439 crore. The expenditure incurred on the Ministries/Departments of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Chemicals & Petro-Chemicals and Fertilisers since 1974-75 is given in the statement enclosed.

STATEMENT INDICATING MINISTRY-WISE/DEPARTMENT-WISE APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE SINCE 1974-75 TILL 1998-99 AS PER THE AVAILABLE RECORDS

Amount in Rs./crore

(i) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	7704
(ii) Department of Chemicals & Petro-Chemicals	1686
iii) Department of Fertilisers	94849
Total Expenditure	104239

Note Expenditure figures shown against the name of each Ministry/Department relate to the total expenditure of that Ministry/Department i.e. Revenue and Capital Expenditure including loans and advances.

Loss of Foreign Exchange in Oil Import

†376. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to inefficient handling by the Oil Co-ordination Committee and Indian Oil Corporation loss of a large amount of foreign exchange is being suffered every year in curde oil import;

(b) if not, whehter it is also not a fact that demurrage has to be paid for not unloading the goods at the right time by carrier ships while importing crude oil; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the total quantity of crude oil and other petroleum products imported during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 alongwith the total of demurrage paid for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMAY):

(a) and (b) The oil industry incurs demurrage partly due to non-availability of berth/ullage and partly due to requirement of keeping some inventory floating in high seas.

(c) Quantity of crude oil and other petroleum products imported during the years, 1997-98 and 1998-99 and the demurrage paid on such imports by Oil Industry were as under:—

	Imports(000'Tonnes)		Demurrage paid (Rupees crores)	
	1997-98	*1998-99	1997-98	1998-99*
Crude oil	34494	39808	107.16	154.05
Petroleum Products	19530	18780	471.00	476.00

*provisional

Recruitment Policy of ONGC and Oil

377. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the recruitment policy of his Ministry as regards ONGC and Oil India;

(b) whether certain anomalies as regards recruitment in Nazira — the Head Quarters of ONGC(ERBC) came to light in the month of September 1998 when all the commerce graduates of Guwahati and Dibrugarh University failed in an interview for junior account assistant and were again called later; and

(c) what are the causes of such anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Recruitment to various posts in ONGC is done in accordance with the Modified Recruitment & Promotion Regulations, 1980. In Oil India Limited, recruitment to executive cadre is done through open press advertisement and the recruitment of work personnel are done by notifying the vacancies through local employment exchanges.

(b) and (c) A written test was conducted by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (Eastern Region Business Centre), Nazira on 22nd November, 1998 for recruitment to five posts of Jr. Accounts Assistant, where 193 candidates appeared. Since none of the candidates qualified in the written test, one more chance was given to all the candidates